The long distance domestic connectivity and long distance international connectivity are to be reviewed as per the new Telecom Policy 1999.

Infrastructure Equalisation for North-East

391. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Ninth Five Year Plan can cover the recommendation of Shukla Commission for the infrastructure equalisation plan of North-Eastern States; and

(b) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan for the North-East States are prepared based on the recommendation of Shukla Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Steps have been taken, through supportive measures for the development of infrastructure and increase of sustainable employment, to ensure that the North Eastern States and Sikkim join the mainstream of national growth. Towards this end, a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has also been constituted for assisting development projects, including in the infrastructure sector, in the North East and Sikkim.

Certain projects (including some recommended by the Shukla Commission) have since been identified for assistance from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources and funds released during the financial year, 1998-99. Similar exercise is being pursued during the current financial year also. The developmental objectives of the North Eastern States (and Sikkim) are also being appropriately pursued through the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of these States and of the Central Ministries and Organizations.

Non-Lapsable Central Pool for North-East

392. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected so far, year-wise, in the non-lapsable Central Pool by Government for the North-Eastern States;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned from this pool by Government State-wise; and

(c) the details of pending schemes of various States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY